



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 23

### Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

#### **Letter dated 4 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 6 May 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina addressed to you (A/64/781), transmitting in an annex a Declaration of the Union of South American Nations in relation to the Falkland Islands.

The Government of the United Kingdom has no doubt about the sovereignty of the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and their surrounding maritime areas.

The principle of self-determination, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, underlies our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiation on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish. They have made clear that they wish to remain British. The Government of the United Kingdom rejects any suggestion that hydrocarbons exploration in Falkland Islands waters amounts to unilateral action by the Government of the United Kingdom and is being carried out in contravention of General Assembly resolution 31/49 of 1976. The Government of the United Kingdom is clear that hydrocarbons exploration in Falkland Islands waters is legitimate business for the Government of the Falkland Islands, and it is carried out in accordance with local and international law.

Neither the Government of the United Kingdom nor the Government of the Falkland Islands is a member of the Union of South American Nations, nor were they invited to, or represented at, the meeting.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23.

*(Signed)* Mark Lyall Grant

